

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELEM 00098 222118Z

65-61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OFA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMCONSUL BELEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0519

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

NATIONAL FISHERIES SERVICE ST PETERSBURG FLA

UNCLAS BELEM 0098

MEXICO CITY FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS BR

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF THREE TRINIDADIAN SHRIMP BOATS.

1. THREE SHRIMP BOATS BELONGING TO THE STATE OWNED FISHING COMPANY OF TRINIDADE WERE CAPTURED BY THE BRAZILIAN NAVY FRIDAY OR SATURDAY AND ARE CURRENTLY BEING DETAINED BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES AT THE VAL-DE-CANS NAVAL BASE IN BELEM. THE BOATS CAPTURED ARE REPORTEDLY THE NATIONAL 9, THE NATIONAL 16 AND THE NATIONAL 19.

2. THE BOATS ARE REPORTEDLY CHARGED WITH FISHING IN AN AREA WHERE FISHING IS NOT ALLOWED UNDER THE BRAZILIAN-TRINIDAD SHRIMP AGREEMENT, AND ADDITIONALLY WHERE ALL FISHING IS PROHIBITED, EVEN TO BRAZILIAN BOATS. THE AREA WHERE THE BOATS WERE CAPTURED IS REPORTEDLY A FEW MILES OFF PONTA DO CEU ON THE AMAPA COST. WILL REPORT DETAILS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. NAVY IN BELEM WILL RELEASE NO INFORMATION ABOUT INCIDENT BUT INFO POSSIBLY AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES.

3. BRAZIL AND TRINIDAD HAVE A SHRIMP AGREEMENT THAT REPORTEDLY ALLOWS TRINIDAD BOATS TO SHRIMP IN SAME AREA AS U.S. BOATS.

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AMOUNT OFFINE HOWEVER NOT SPECIFIED IN TRINIDAD-BRAZIL AGREEMENT

LAST YEAR WHEN TRINIDAD SHRIMP BOAT WAS CAPTURED FINE WAS A
CR\$25,000 QUOTE TOWING CHARGE UNQUOTE.

4. AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO WORKS FOR TRINIDAD STATE FISHING COMPANY
HAS ARRIVED IN BELEM TO PAY FINE AND ARRANGE RELEASE OF BOATS.
BARBADOS OFFICIALS WILL REPORTEDLY ARRIVE TOMORROW TO HELP WITH
ARRANGEMENTS FOR RELEASE OF BOATS. WHY BARBADOS OFFICIALS ARE
BECOMING INVOLVED IS NOT YET CLEAR.

5. FOR THE FIRST TIME CAPTURE OF SHRIMP BOAT WAS HEADLINE NEWS IN
BELEM NEWSPAPERS. PREVIOUSLY WHEN SHRIMP BOATS OF ANY NATIONALITY
HAVE BEEN CAPTURED THERE HAS BEEN NO NEWS COVERAGE AT ALL. RAPID
SOLUTION OF SHRIMP BOAT PROBLEMS ARE BELIEVED TO BE EASIER WHEN

THEY CAN BE WORKED OUT IN PRIVATE. THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE THIS
TIME BECAUSE THE CAPTURED BOATS BEING ESCORTED BY THE CORVETA
SOLIMOEES PASSED THE BEACH OF MOSQUEIRO DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON
THEIR WAY TO THE NAVY BASE. THOUSANDS OF VACATIONERS INCLUDING MANY
JOURNALISTS SAW THE BOATS AND TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SPECULATION
RESULTED. BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS IN BELEM HAVE NOT MADE AND DO NOT
PLAN AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY TYPE CONCERNING THE SEIZURE OF THE
VESSELS.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEING POUCHED TO BRASILIA.
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